

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 23 DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

PRIMARY AGENCY: Washington State Military Department
Emergency Management Division

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State Department General Administration
Washington State Department of Health
Washington State Military Department
National Guard
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Washington State Department of Revenue
Washington State Department of Transportation
Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission
All Other State Agencies
American Red Cross
Federal Emergency Management Agency

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 23 establishes uniform policies for assessment of damages resulting from a natural or technological (human-caused) disaster.

B. Scope

Disasters cause injury to individuals and damage to property, the environment, businesses, non-profit entities, and to government-owned assets. Damages must be assessed to determine a priority of response efforts and to determine eligibility for disaster aid.

II. POLICIES

A. Non-catastrophic Events

When an incident is so profound that the state and affected jurisdictions will qualify for federal disaster relief, a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) must be completed. The local jurisdictions lead the PDA effort. Damage assessment activities include windshield surveys of affected areas. This assessment is a quick, cursory evaluation, usually accomplished by driving through the damaged areas (hence the term windshield survey). Trained personnel of the American Red Cross often carry out these surveys. Local jurisdictions should conduct windshield surveys within 24 hours of an event, regardless of a declaration.

If the PDA ultimately leads to a Presidential Disaster Declaration authorizing “Public Assistance,” then detailed Project Worksheets (PWs) of public sector damages will be completed jointly by local jurisdictions, state, and federal staff. Other inspectors survey damages suffered by individuals and businesses if “Individual Assistance” is authorized. These activities are coordinated through a Disaster Field Office (DFO), if activated.

B. Catastrophic Events

In rare instances, the effects of the disaster are so dramatic that the need for a PDA is eliminated for those jurisdictions that are especially hard hit. In those cases, inspectors begin verifying claims for Public and Individual Assistance as quickly as possible, pursuant to the administrative procedures of the specific program.

III. SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

See Basic Plan.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. An emergency or disaster has occurred.
2. The emergency or disaster has caused significant damage requiring assessment of damages.
3. Local jurisdictions will conduct and support damage assessment activities.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

PDAs are tools used, in part, to determine a local jurisdictions eligibility for disaster assistance. The local jurisdiction normally leads state and federal inspectors through damaged areas. Based largely on these assessments, the Director for the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD) may recommend that the Governor seek federal disaster assistance.

B. Organization

The responsibilities for the accomplishment of damage assessments lie with the local jurisdiction or state agency that provide the damage assessment estimates to the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

C. Procedures**1. Early Assessment Activity**

Initial damage assessment information will come into the state EOC from local jurisdictions and state agencies. If the state and affected jurisdictions may meet the threshold for federal disaster assistance, the Disaster Manager will direct the completion of a formal PDA. Whenever possible, state and federal staff will participate in any PDA. Based on the result of the PDA(s), state damage assessment staff will make a recommendation to the Director for the state EMD concerning the appropriateness of advising the Governor to request federal emergency assistance.

2. Damage Verification

Once a county is declared by the President to be a major disaster area, teams of federal and state inspectors, working out of a DFO, will inspect damaged public facilities with a county representative and determine what aid, if any, may be due. Other inspectors will verify damages suffered by individuals and businesses that have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Details of these programs can be found in their administrative plans.

D. Preparedness Activities**1. Primary Agency****Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division**

Prepares detailed administrative procedures to implement damage assessment programs.

2. Support Agencies**a. Washington State Departments of Agriculture, Ecology, General Administration, Health, Military Department - National Guard, Transportation, and the Parks and Recreation Commission**

- (1) Develops procedures to evaluate damage to real property, utilities, etc.
- (2) Develops detailed administrative procedures to conduct damage assessment of agency facilities following an emergency or disaster.
- (3) Identifies and trains staff to conduct PDAs.

b. Washington State Department of Revenue

- (1) Develops procedures to evaluate damage to forests to determine marketability and tax impacts.
- (2) Develops procedures to evaluate damage to real property, utilities, etc.
- (3) Develops detailed administrative procedures to conduct damage assessment of agency facilities following an emergency or disaster.
- (4) Identifies and trains staff to conduct PDAs.

c. Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission

Identifies and trains staff to conduct PDAs.

d. All Other State Agencies

Develops detailed administrative procedures to conduct damage assessment of agency facilities following an emergency or disaster.

e. Federal Emergency Management Agency

Reviews state damage assessment procedures for consistency with federal plans.

E. Response Activities

1. Primary Agency

Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division

Assembles preliminary damage assessment information at the state EOC.

2. Support Agencies

a. Washington State Departments of Agriculture, Ecology, General Administration, Health, Transportation, and the Parks and Recreation Commission

- (1) Conducts an evaluation of damage to agency real property and utilities.
- (2) Conducts an evaluation of damage to state property, assets the agency is responsible to manage, or areas of agency concern.

b. Washington State Military Department, National Guard

Provides support for PDA activities, as requested in an emergency or disaster.

c. Washington State Department of Revenue

- (1) Conducts an evaluation of the damage to forests to determine marketability and tax impacts.
- (2) Conducts an evaluation of the damage to real property, utilities, etc.

d. Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission

Provides limited damage assessment estimates based upon information obtained from the affected utilities, to include identification of outages, their locations, and probable restoration times on the utilities systems under the Commission's jurisdiction.

e. All Other State Agencies

- (1) Conduct damage assessment of internal agency facilities.
- (2) Determine impact of emergency or disaster on the ability to provide service to constituents.
- (3) Report damage assessment results to the state EOC.

f. American Red Cross

Conducts PDAs for private property and residences.

F. Recovery Activities

1. Primary Agency

Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division

- a. Continues to conduct damage and impact assessments.
- b. Prepares necessary damage reports and provides to the state EOC.

2. Support Agencies

Washington State Departments of Agriculture, Ecology, General Administration, Health, Revenue, Transportation, Parks and Recreation Commission, Utilities and Transportation Commission,

Other State Agencies, American Red Cross, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency

- a. Continue to conduct damage and impact assessments.
- b. Prepare necessary damage reports and provides to the state EOC.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Primary Agency

Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division

Coordinates the collection, dissemination, and evaluation of damage information.

B. Support Agencies

Washington State Departments of Agriculture, Ecology, General Administration, Health, Military Department - National Guard, Revenue, Transportation, Parks and Recreation Commission, Utilities and Transportation Commission, All Other State Agencies, American Red Cross, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Perform damage assessment tasks in support of the ESF.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Resources are requested through the state EOC as follows:
 - 1. One vehicle per PDA team.
 - 2. Temporary office space for the PDA team members.
- B. Other resource requirements are to be requested through the state EOC, Logistics Section, to be coordinated with FEMA.

VII. REFERENCES

- A. Draft Washington State Integrated Fixed Facility Radiological and Chemical Protection Plan, January 1997.
- B. FEMA Publication 262, Guide to Federal Aid in Disasters,

VIII. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

See CEMP Basic Plan, Appendix 4.